

# The Royal<sup>®</sup> HORSE SHOW

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## International Show Jumping Stars Set for Toronto's Royal Horse Show

### *Kent Farrington to Defend \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto Title*

Toronto, Ontario – U.S. Olympian Kent Farrington will headline a star-studded field as the international show jumping division gets underway at the Royal Horse Show, held as part of the 96th Royal Agricultural Winter Fair running November 2 through 11 at Exhibition Place in downtown Toronto, ON.

Four days of international show jumping competition will culminate in the \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto, presented by GroupBy, on Saturday night, November 10. Having won last year's featured event riding Voyer, Farrington plans to saddle up Creedance as he attempts to defend his title against some of the best show jumping competitors in the world.



*Kent Farrington of the United States, pictured aboard Voyer, will defend his title in the \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto, presented by GroupBy, on Saturday night, November 10, the Royal Horse Show.*

***Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography***

"I love the Royal Horse Show," said Farrington, 37, of Wellington, FL. "It's a throwback in time with everyone wearing black tie and a packed house. All of the classes feel important. It's one of my favourite shows in a beautiful city."

Of Creedance, an expressive 11-year-old chestnut Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by the rider and R.C.G. Farm, Farrington said, "I've had him since he was seven and he's really stepped up to be a very competitive grand prix horse on the biggest level. He has won classes at The Royal and other five-star events and is very fast indoors. Now that he's more mature, he's gotten more predictable and easier to manage. He was quite difficult to manage when he was young but he's getting better with age."

Joining Farrington in representing the United States are three of the four 2018 World Championship gold medal team members, Devin Ryan, Adrienne Sternlicht, and McLain Ward. Molly Ashe-Cawley, Margie Goldstein-Engle, Andy Kocher, and Catherine Tyree will also represent the stars and stripes in this year's international division.

The eight international competitors invited to this year's Royal Horse Show include Daniel Bluman of Israel, Capt. Brian Cournane, Cormac Hanley, and Conor Swail of Ireland, Great Britain's Amanda Derbyshire, Karen Polle representing Japan, Rowan Willis of Australia, and New Zealand's Sharn Wordley.



*Fresh off her 2018 World Championship debut, Erynn Ballard of Tottenham, ON, will represent Canada in the international show jumping division at the Royal Horse Show, running through November 11 at Exhibition Place in downtown Toronto.*

**Photo by Ben Radvanyi Photography**

Canada will also be represented by eight competitors to make up the total of 24 athletes who contest The Royal's international division each year. Erynn Ballard of Tottenham, ON, Kean White of Rockwood, ON, and Ian and Jonathon Millar, both of Perth, ON, qualified based on their standings in the Longines World Rankings while Jump Canada's high performance committee named Ali Ramsay of Victoria, BC, and Beth Underhill of Schomberg, ON, as its two picks for the international division. Nicole Walker of Aurora, ON, and Amy Millar of Perth, ON, earned their tickets into the international division as the newly crowned Canadian Show Jumping Champion and Reserve Champion, respectively.

The international show jumping division officially opens on Wednesday, November 7, featuring the \$36,000 Jolera International Welcome in the evening session. A sentimental favourite, the \$85,000 GroupBy 'Big Ben' International Challenge highlights Thursday evening while the popular \$50,000 Weston Canadian Open is featured on Friday evening's Royal Horse Show schedule.

Saturday afternoon, November 10, is Family Day, presented by McDonald's, at the Royal Horse Show. The entertaining K9-Equine Challenge, presented by the Toronto Star, pairs show jumping horses with agility dogs to see who can complete their respective courses in the fastest time. In an unparalleled evening of horse sport, the \$205,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup™ Toronto, presented by GroupBy, will bring down the curtain on closing night of the Royal Horse Show.

In entertainment, Australia's Guy McLean will demonstrate his unique form of natural horsemanship throughout the Royal Horse Show while Pogo Puissance by Xpogo will take jumping to new heights as young athletes attempt to set records by jumping obstacles on pogo sticks.

More than 1,000 horses from around the globe will compete for \$980,000 in prize money during the 10-day CSI4\*-W Royal Horse Show. VIP Platinum and Gold seating, as well as group and individual tickets, are **on sale now**. All Royal Horse Show tickets include general admission to The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

For more information on the Royal Horse Show, the marquee event of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, visit <http://www.royalfair.org/horseshow.html>.

Funding support for The Royal has been provided by the City of Toronto and the Government of Ontario.

***About The Royal***

*The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is the world's largest combined indoor agricultural and equestrian event. This year marks the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and it runs November 2-11, 2018, at Exhibition Place in Toronto, Canada. For competition schedules, live webcasting, results, and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org).*